

Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ITF-05 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 H-02 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05

INSE-00 /061 W
----- 079538

P 162024Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8921

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, CB, UY
SUBJ: CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS

REF: MVD 1644

1. AMBASSADOR ONG CALLED EMBOFF TO EXPRESS HIS SHOCK AT CHARGES
LEVIED BY HIS COLLEAGUES (SEE REFTEL). HE SAID ALL HIS RESOURCES,
INCLUDING PERSONAL FUNDS, NOWHERE NEAR \$60,000. HE ADDED THAT
HE USED REMAINING OFFICIAL FUNDS TO PAY SOM AND OUN \$5,000 AT
BEGINNING OF MAY TO COVER PAY PLUS SOME OVERDUE CHARGE PAY
AND MEDICAL BILLS. ONG STATED OFFICIAL ACCOUNT INCLUDED HIS SALARY,
TOO, BUT THAT HE WAS LEFT WITH ONLY PORTION OF "OVER \$2,000 A

MONTH" DUE HIM. WITH RESPECT TO CARS, HE SAID HE SOLD THEM BUT
THAT HE OBLIGED TO HOLD MONIES FROM SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY
FOR WHICH HE STILL CONSIDERS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE TO PHNOM
PENH.

2. AMBASSADOR ATTRIBUTED HIS COLLEAGUES' RESORT TO THE PRESS
BOTH TO DESPERATION AND TO RESENTMENT OVER THEIR NOT RECEIVING
A SHARE OF PROCEEDS FROM CAR SALES.

3. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE CAMBODIANS ARE BECOMING DESPERATE.
HOWEVER, SO FAR AS WE AWARE, ONG'S EVERY MOVE HAS BEEN AS HE ORI-
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GINALLY OUTLINED TO US AND ALL APPROACHES HE HAS MADE TO US HAVE BEEN

MADE ON BEHALF OF ALL HIS STAFF AND NOT JUST HIMSELF. HE ALSO TOLD US AT OUTSET OF PROBLEM THAT HE WOULD REMAIN ACCOUNTABLE FOR ALL EMBASSY PROPERTIES ALTHOUGH HIS STAFF APPARENTLY BELIEVES HE WILL TAKE PROCEEDS FROM THEIR SALE FOR HIS OWN USE. AS STATED ABOVE, HE HAS DENIED THIS. ALSO, AS STATED IN REFTEL, WE CANNOT SEE HIM HAVING COME UP WITH ANYTHING EVEN APPROACHING \$60,000. ONG'S RELUCTANCE TO MAKE CLEAN BREAK WITH PHNOM PENH GIVES US SOME QUALMS, BUT WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION HE HAS BEEN HONEST WITH RESPECT TO CARING FOR STAFF. GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OUTLINED ABOVE THERE IS LITTLE, IF ANYTHING, HE CAN DO FOR HIS STAFF AT THIS POINT.

4. GDS.

HAAHR

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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